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ART NEWS FROM THE OLD WORLD.

The exhibition of French art of the eighteenth century, which was held at Brussels during the last month, under the special patronage of King Leopold, was one of the highest interest to all students of that prolific period, when admirable workmanship seconded artistic inspiration. A splendid collection of tapestries from the Garde Meuble was loaned by the government, so that the national manufactures of Gobelins, Beauvais, and Aubusson were magnificently represented. Pictures by the "grands et petits maîtres" of the period-Watteau, Nautier, Boucher, Pater, Fragonard, Lancret, etc., were displayed in abundance, besides marbles, brasses, china, jewels, and rare and precious art baubles of every kind and description.

* The Paris Salon des Femmes Peintres et Sculpteurs will hold its regular annual exhibition in the Grand Palais in the Champs Élysées from February 14 to March 14. Mme. V. D. Bréton has recently been elected president of this organization.

* The new president, succeeding Bouguereau of the Société des Artistes Français, is Tony Robert Fleury. The Grand Palace in the Champs Élysées, where the election was held, presented a scene of great animation. The other candidates were Fremlet, a sculptor; Cormon, a painter; and Menot, an architect. The society preferred to have a painter succeed a painter. His principal works are "Le Dernier Jour de Corinthe," "Les Danaïdes," and "Vauban à Belfort."

* The Corporation of London has presented to the Corporation of Ottawa, Canada, a series of medals struck by order of the London organization, as well as a number of books printed at its command. Ottawa is building a new library, where these medals and books will be preserved. In date the medals run from 1831, "Opening of London Bridge," to 1900, "Sending of the London Imperial Volunteers to South Africa."

* A French sculptor, M. Charpentier, and a Belgian sculptor, M. Meunier, have completed a design for the Zola monument which will symbolize Zola's novels, "Travail" and "Fécondité."

* The city council of St. Petersburg, Russia, offers a premium to those who will in future assist in beautifying the national capital, for it has declared that it is henceforth its intention to exempt from taxation all new buildings which shall be adjudged not only useful, but ornamental. This, it is to be presumed, applies to interior decoration as well as to the architecture of the buildings. There may be a hint for activity in a legislative way for some of our art societies, such as the Society of Mural Painters, the Sculpture Society, and the Architectural League, all headed, as a matter of course, by the Fine

Arts Federation in co-operation with the Municipal Art Commission, and for organizations of similar character throughout the country.

* The government of Holland recently appointed an art commission to superintend the collection in Holland of art works for the St. Louis Exposition. Eleven rooms in the Fine Arts Building in St. Louis, between those of the American and German exhibits, have been assigned to Holland. The well-known marine artist, H. W. Mesdag, who gave a year ago a collection of paintings by the Barbizon painters to the museum at The Hague, has been chosen by the government of Holland as president of the commission. Willy Martens has been appointed secretary and Hubert Vos, of New York, royal acting commissioner. Mr. Martens will arrive in America in April to assist Mr. Vos in the hanging of the collection at St. Louis.

* An ingenious swindler in "high art" was recently brought to light by a case in the Paris courts. A picture dealer named Bureau had been disposing of false Corots, Millets, Harpignies, etc., to private collectors at fancy prices. A purchaser of one of the Harpignies, suddenly became suspicious of its genuineness and showed it to the artist himself. The latter denied being the painter. Then an investigation was made, and it was found that Bureau was carrying on a regular trade in landscape paintings of the Corot and Millet period. An artist named Reynolds made the copies, then M. Bureau submitted them to a process to give them the air of not being new and appended the signatures of the famous landscape artists.

* Adolf von Menzel has been telling a Berlin journal things out of school with regard to the training of artists. Neither schools nor "movements" should be encouraged with honors and diplomas. If a movement or a school has the requisite stuff in it, there will be no trouble about honors and prizes. "I am of the opinion," said he,



PEN-AND-INK SKETCH
By Josef Israëls

"that great and good things may spring from any school; in the end the only question is whether they have done thorough work. It is not the school but the individual—that is my solution of the problem! Who can say what will be the result of the present efforts?

Perhaps they will throw off their cinders, perhaps the cinders will clog the growth of art."

* The picture exhibition which is held every year at the Parnassum, in Athens, has been formally opened by Prince Nicholas. A large number of Greek artists, both living in Greece and in foreign countries, sent in works, with the result that the Salon of this year is the largest ever held in Athens.

* Fashion rules the works of even the old masters. Just at present paintings by Sir Thomas Lawrence are the vogue in London, and particular prominence is to be given to works by that painter at the



SAILING THE BOAT
By Josef Israëls

winter exhibition of old masters at the Royal Academy. The revival of interest in this famous English painter's work is said to be due to the French appreciation of its excellence. There is chance for cynical remark here concerning the judgment which values its own according to foreign standards. One might suppose that the English nation would stand by its own opinions, irrespective of what the people of other nations might think of its art products.